

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUALLY AND AUTOMATICALLY
PROCESSING MICROELECTRONIC WORKPIECES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for manually and automatically processing microelectronic workpieces. The apparatus can include a tool having a plurality of processing stations, all of which are manually accessible to a user, and an input/output station configured to support at least one microelectronic workpiece for automatic transfer to and from the processing stations. A transfer device is positioned proximate to the input/output station and the processing stations and is configured to automatically transfer microelectronic workpieces between the input/output station and the processing stations. The apparatus can be used for both manual and automatic processing of microelectronic workpieces, either sequentially or simultaneously.

1. A method for processing microelectronic workpieces, comprising:
providing a tool having a plurality of processing stations;
providing an input/output station configured to support at least one microelectronic workpiece;
providing a transfer device positioned proximate to the input/output station and the processing stations;
transferring microelectronic workpieces between the input/output station and the processing stations;
processing the microelectronic workpieces manually or automatically.